







ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 06720 5507

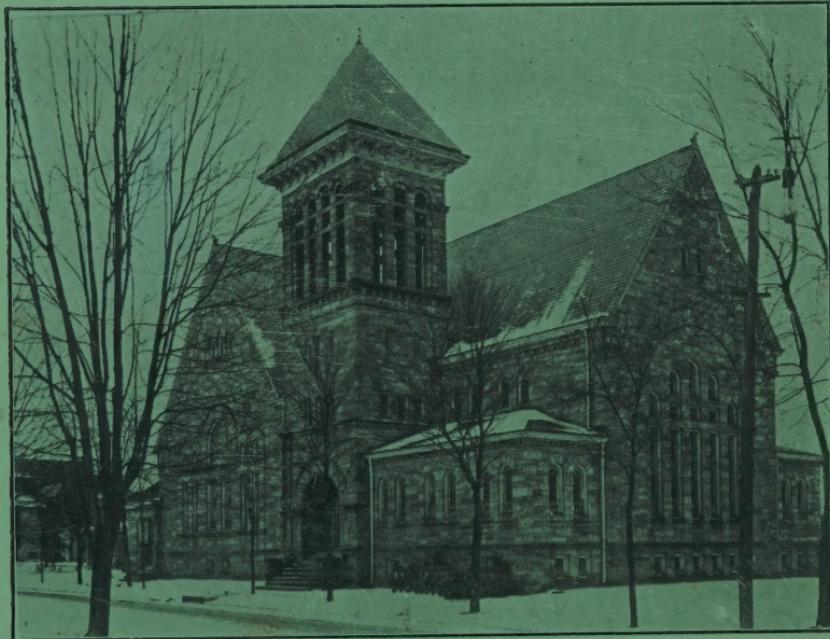
1841

1941

HISTORY  
OF THE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CLARION, PENNSYLVANIA

GC  
974.802  
C54WI

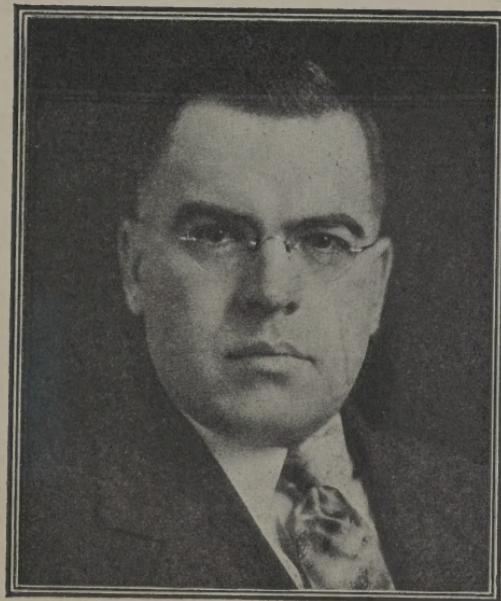


100th Anniversary Celebration

June 22nd to June 28th 1941



To  
Sarah Campbell Opie  
from  
Thos. A. Nelson



Rev. Claire McKay Stewart, D. D.  
Present Pastor of the Church



## *Foreword*

For one hundred years the First Presbyterian Church of Clarion has, through her ministers and members, sent forth a wholesome leavening influence the results of which eternity alone can measure. Her ministers have been God-fearing men who went about preaching, teaching and living the Jesus Way of life. Her members have been loyal church and community leaders. Therefore, no book, however inclusive, can possibly present anything like a complete record of the part this Christian organization has played in the lives of her members or the influence exerted upon the community.

Men who loved their Lord founded our church and the same type of men have continued her through the century—men who realized the necessity of maintaining a Church in their midst regardless of the sacrifice required to do it. More than six hundred people of the same conviction have recently raised approximately eleven thousand dollars, most of which has been expended on our beautiful church edifice, as a tribute to those who have gone on before and as unmistakable evidence of their faith in the future.

Our sincere thanks are extended to the Historical Committee and especially to the Chairman, the Honorable Theo. L. Wilson, the author, whose untiring efforts have made this book possible.

For ten years it has been my privilege to be pastor of this splendidly organized, deeply spiritual and forward looking people. May I record for posterity that no man ever has been privileged to serve a finer and more cooperative congregation.

Our faces are toward the future as one century passes and another begins. We are determined to build upon the splendid foundations of those of yester year. With our God we go marching on!

CLAIRe McKAY STEWART.

1841

1941

# HISTORY

OF THE

## *First Presbyterian Church Clarion, Pennsylvania*

AND THE

100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
JUNE 22nd to JUNE 28th, 1941

---

COMPILED BY

Theo. L. Wilson

---

*“Books Are Lighthouses Erected On  
The Great Sea Of Time.”*

**HISTORY  
OF THE  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF CLARION, PENNSYLVANIA,  
COMPILED BY THEO. L. WILSON FOR THE CELEBRATION  
OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH.**

---

**Section I. General History and Church Buildings**

One hundred years ago the Presbyterian Church of Clarion was organized May 15, 1841, in the loft of the old stone Clarion County Jail, by Reverend J. Core of the Licking Church and Reverend D. Polk of Brookville, Pennsylvania, with sixteen members whose names were: Hugh A. Thompson, Elizabeth Thompson, Thomas Sutton, John McConaughey, Abraham Richards, Rebecca Richards, John Clark, Mary Clark, John Potter, Nancy Potter, Mary Shoemaker, Jane Maxwell, Richard Wilson, Elizabeth Wilson, Lucinda Hamilton and Elizabeth Kelly.

Hugh A. Thompson, Thomas Sutton and John Clark were installed as Presiding Elders.

This was two years after the location of the town and the same year that the community was erected into a borough by the Act of Assembly of April 6, 1841, and at that time the population of the town was about eight hundred persons.

On account of the scarcity of buildings suitable for meetings, the loft of the old County Jail was the room in which many different kinds of public gatherings were held, and the services of the First Presbyterian Church were usually held in that room from the date of organization to the time of the building of the church.

The Court House and Jail had been built and the population was growing rapidly, but the settlers of Clarion, like pioneers in all early communities, were not strong financially and when the question of building a church which should do credit to the County Seat of Clarion County began to be agitated in 1842 and 1843, it must have seemed a large undertaking, but their ambition in the good cause was equalled by their spirit of perseverance, willingness for work, and self-denial, and accordingly, after much discussion, a building committee was appointed to prepare plans, finance and arrange for the construction of a new Presbyterian Church building, and the building committee appointed consisted of Judge James Campbell, Hugh A. Thompson, Thomas Sutton, Robert Barber and H. M. R. Clark.

A building committee in those days had something to do besides superintending the work and collecting the necessary funds, which latter office was evidently no small task. They frequently were called upon to assist in the manual labor incident to the construction of the building.

Subscription papers were widely circulated and the people responded liberally considering their limited means. The amount originally subscribed was less than two thousand dollars, which included subscriptions in work, lumber, store goods and coal, and some of which they could scarcely hope to collect.

Of course this sum was much smaller than would be required to build, yet they had faith to go on, and in the Spring of 1843 work began. The bricks for the building were made near the spot on which the first church building now stands.

During the building of the church it was not at all an unusual thing for the building committee to be notified by some of the workmen that they would quit work if not paid at least part of what was due them. Sometimes they were greeted by several such notices in one day. Then peace would be again established by furnishing a sack of flour, a few pounds of coffee, or maybe a very little money.

In spite of the great difficulties and discouragements encountered by the building committee and the congregation, the work of the building of the church was completed in September, 1844, with a debt of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars resting on it. The cost of the church was Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars in money, but much of the work was not included in this, having been voluntarily performed by members of the congregation and the building committee.

After the completion of the building a fresh emergency stared the long suffering building committee in the face in the fact that the new church was in danger of being sold to pay for itself. Almost three years previous to this emergency arising, a call had been extended to the Reverend James Montgomery, then a young man fresh from the Theological Seminary. With his usual zeal and courage he rose to meet the contingency and made a tour of Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and New York and succeeded in collecting enough money to discharge the debt. From this time on prosperity attended the church.

The corner-stone of the old church was laid without any special ceremonies. The stone cutter in charge of the foundation wall made a pocket in a stone under the steps and Mr. Sutton, a member of the building committee, deposited a bottle in it containing the names of the Governor and State Officers, the Borough and Town Council, Building Committee, and two Ten Dollar counterfeit notes; also one or two copies of the County papers.

There is no record as to how the Church secured title to lot No. 119 on which the first church was built, but we are reliably informed that the lot was presented to the Church by the founders of the town of Clarion.

The church when finished was a commodious one-story brick and wood building, with a well-proportioned wooden belfry on the north end of the building, which contained the peculiarly toned old church bell that was destined for over fifty-five years to give the members of the church notice of the time to assemble for the worship of God, and the old bell is still in use by the Helen Furnace Church having

been presented to it by Theo. L. Wilson.

The only entrance to the church was a double door entrance at the north end.

The interior of the church was a plain, rectangularly shaped room, in size seventy by forty-two feet by twenty feet, and having a seating capacity of about three hundred persons. The floor was level and the middle part was occupied by solid blocks of pews. Two side aisles about four feet wide gave access to the center block of pews and to sections of pews on each side of the church between the aisles and the side walls. All of the pews ran directly east and west, except a few pews in the south-east corner of the church known as the "Amen Corner," which ran north and south.

The pews were plain, white pine, painted a light gray, and none of them were cushioned except a few family pews.

The pulpit was located at the south end of the church on a small raised platform, and the south end of the church was occupied by the pulpit platform in the center, the side pews in the south-east corner and the pipe organ in the south-west corner.

The north end of the church was occupied by a vestibule and a commodious gallery about fifteen feet in width, extending across the full width of the church, and which was used for overflow meetings and Sunday School classes.

The north-east corner of the church under the gallery was used for the Sunday School Library.

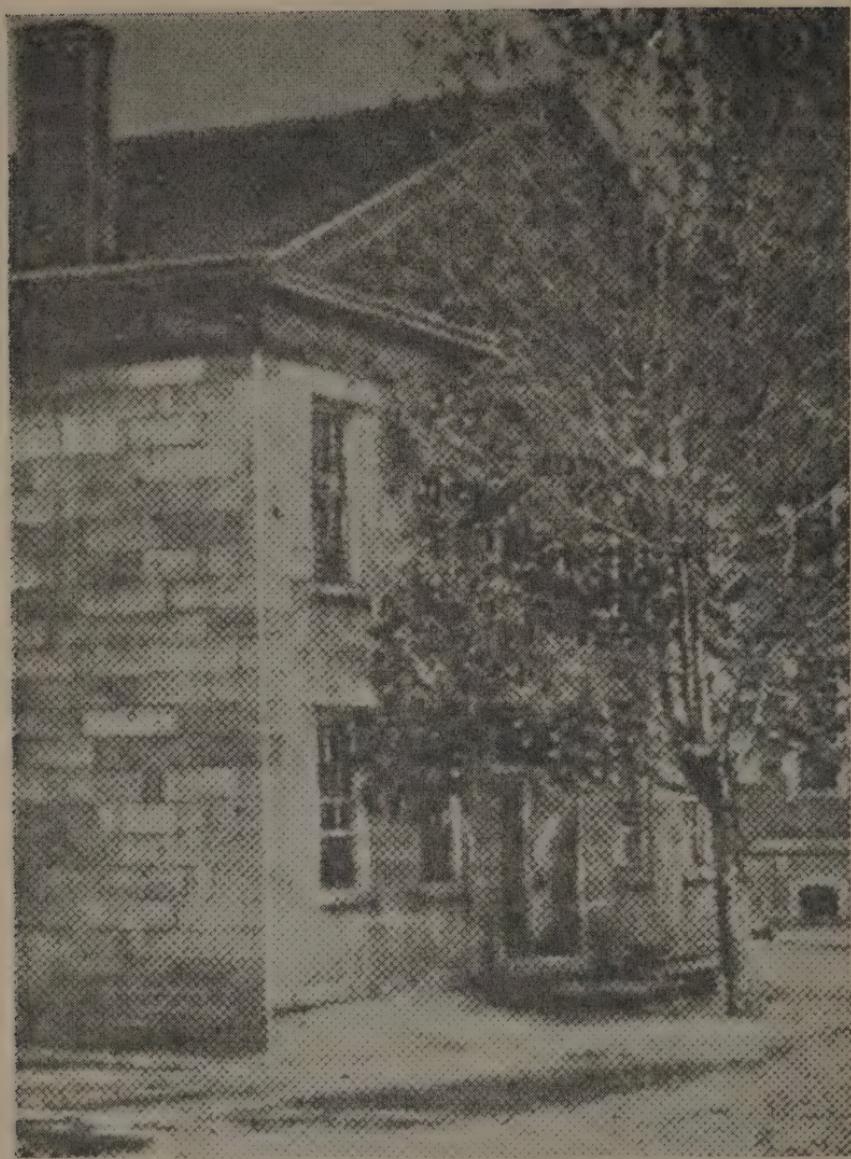
The church was well lighted by twelve large windows, four on each side and two at each end, although in later years the two windows at the south end were bricked up. The large window frames contained many small panes of glass, and were used for forty years from the completion of the church, from 1844 to 1884, when they were replaced by handsome stained glass windows.

For a number of years after the completion of the church the walls were undecorated, but when the finances of the church permitted the walls were papered and finally, in 1884, the interior was tastefully frescoed, which remained unchanged the remaining years the church was used.

The church was heated by three large drum shaped cast iron stoves, using coal for fuel, until the use of natural gas as fuel became general in Clarion.

The first artificial lighting of the church was by oil lamps, which was at that time considered unusual as the other public buildings in Clarion at that time were lighted by candles. About 1884 natural gas was installed in the church for lighting purposes and was used until the old church was abandoned.

For some years after the completion of the church the floor was uncarpeted, but finally the pulpit platform, the floor space in front of the pulpit, and the two aisles were carpeted, but the pew floors always remained uncarpeted except in a few family pews, which were



*The first Clarion County Jail in the loft of  
which the Church was organized*

carpeted at individual expense. Some few pews contained wooden foot rests, but the number was limited.

At the time of the building of the first church the population of Clarion was about seven hundred fourteen persons, and the total number of persons taken into the church from the beginning in 1841 to the completion of the church in 1844 amounted to eighty-three members, and considering the small population of the town, the small church membership, and the great lack of financial strength, too much credit cannot be given the building committee, the members of which had the foresight, in spite of all their handicaps, to build such a large and substantial building as to amply provide for the needs of the church for a period of fifty-five years.

For a number of years after the completion of the first church building the church did not have a musical instrument and the church music consisted of congregational singing and was lead by Captain James F. Mackey, who was an excellent singer and leader. In about 1865, through the efforts of those specially interested in the music of the church and in spite of considerable opposition on the part of members of the congregation who believed that the worship of God should be exclusively by the human voice, the first musical instrument was purchased and was an old-fashioned melodian which was operated by foot pumps and peddles. This instrument was used for a number of years until a cabinet organ was purchased, which was operated by a pump projecting from the end of the organ. The purchase of the first organ resulted in the organization of a strong choir, which aroused more interest in special church music, and through the efforts of the choir the first pipe organ in the County of Clarion was installed in the Presbyterian Church on June 18, 1881, at a cost of One Thousand and Eighty Dollars.

For a number of years the first pipe organ was played by Mrs. J. Frank Ross and Mrs. Clara Rankin Coblenz, without compensation.

This pipe organ also was operated by a hand pump very similar to a water pump handle, and the pumping power was as a rule furnished by the boys of the congregation; if the pump was operated too fast the organ roared, and if not fast enough it squeaked; consequently, when in 1885 the water motor was installed for operating the organ, relief was furnished the boys of the congregation as well as the organists.

This organ was an unusually good instrument for its time and was moved from the old church into the new church and was used until the new pipe organ in present use was installed. After the purchase of the new pipe organ the old one was given by the Church Trustees to the Normal School, and by the Normal School was given to the Summerville Presbyterian Church and was used there a number of years.

On account of the small membership of the Church and the expense of lighting and heating the large church building for small meetings of different kinds, in 1855 the members of the Church built a one-story frame building on the Wood Street end of the church lot. The size of the building was 40 feet by 26 feet by 11 feet. The ma-



## *Interior View of First Church Building with Christmas Decorations*

terials for the building were donated by different members of the congregation, and the work on the building was done by members of the congregation free of charge. It was used for many years for small church gatherings, prayer meetings, Sunday School work, and the different societies and organizations of the Church. Many years after the building was completed an addition consisting of a kitchen was attached so that the ladies' organizations of the Church could use the building for church suppers. This building was always known and referred to as the "Lecture room."

On February 10, 1855, the First Presbyterian Church in the Borough of Clarion was incorporated and the Articles of Incorporation are recorded in the Recorder's Office of Clarion County in Deed Book 4, page 670. The Articles of Incorporation setting forth the purposes, method of government, etc., consisted of fourteen Articles, and of

the original Articles Nos. 4, 7, 8 and 10 have been supplied by new Articles by subsequent proceedings, and Article No. 6 was amended by subsequent proceedings. The names of the subscribers to the Articles of Incorporation are as follows: Robert Sutton, John Clark, I. N. Hetherington, Jesse D. Porter, Geo. W. Lathy, James Campbell, Chas. L. Lamberton, D. Morrell, Wm. T. Alexander, D. B. Curr, Samuel Elder, Thompson Maffett, William Goodwin, James B. Knox, Abraham Richards, John P. Greer, W. W. Barr, Hugh Craig, A. K. Page, H. M. Clark, James Ross and Robert Potter. The Church still conducts its business under these Articles of Incorporation and the amendments thereto.

The following years wrought changes in the congregation and in the old church as well—the church which had so nobly served its purpose for more than fifty years. It had been in its day a credit to the town in which it was built and was in good condition considering the years of service it had provided, but it seemed fitting that a larger and more modern structure should replace the old church, and after discussing the matter for a period of three or four years it was decided that a new church should be built, but this decision was not reached until Dr. Elder, by his earnest prayers and frequent talking on the subject, succeeded in impressing his congregation with a sense of their duty in the case. Members of the congregation at that time freely stated that but for the quite persistent efforts of the pastor, Reverend Elder, and the zeal and energy of the women of the congregation, we probably would still be worshipping in the old church.

On account of the lot occupied by the old church not being large enough to adequately provide the space needed for the larger church proposed, and the failure of the congregation to secure additional ground adjoining, different locations were considered and finally at a congregational meeting held June 23, 1894, Harry R. Wilson offered a free building site on West Wood Street near the old parsonage, and Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Campbell offered a free building site on East Wood Street at Seventh Avenue, and the congregation voted to accept the offer of Mr. and Mrs. Campbell and their gift was gratefully accepted.

R. D. Campbell, now deceased, was a son of the late Judge James Campbell, who was a member of the building committee of the old church and took such an active part in the building of the same, and to whose records we are indebted for part of the early history of the church.

The ground on which the new church was located consisted of a plot seventy-five feet by one hundred eighty feet, and is located at the south-east corner of East Wood Street and Seventh Avenue.

At the same meeting a building committee consisting of S. K. Clarke, S. A. Wilhelm, Ed. M. Wilson, A. W. Corbett and David Lawson, was appointed. This committee, at a congregational meeting held August 28, 1894, submitted plans and specifications approved by them for a new church and they were instructed to build a church according to the plans and the specifications submitted.

The committee named supervised the construction of the new

building from its commencement until its completion. S. S. Wilson was the contractor and P. H. Melvin sub-contractor for the stone work. The contract price was Twenty-one Thousand Three Hundred Dollars. This did not include the furnishing of the church by the Ladies' Church Association through money raised by them in various ways, principally by giving church suppers, and the amount raised by them being about Seven Thousand Dollars, and the structure with its furnishings and equipment cost about Thirty Thousand Dollars.



## *Interior View of the Present Church*

Ground was broken for the new church September 3, 1894, and the services for the laying of the corner stone were held May 14, 1895, at high noon, with impressive ceremonies. The exercises attendant on placing the box in the corner stone began with services in the old church on Monday night, May 13, 1895, at which time Dr. Henry T. McClelland, pastor of the Bellefield Presbyterian Church of Pitts-

burgh, delivered an eloquent and forceful sermon. On Tuesday, May 14th at nine o'clock A. M., a meeting opened in the old church with Dr. J. S. Elder in the Chair. It continued until fifteen minutes of twelve o'clock and was one of the most interesting and edifying ever held in the town, by reason of the many excellent thoughts and ideas to which expression was given.

Owing to the inclemency of the weather it was determined to hold all of the services in the old church except the brief ceremony at the new edifice on depositing the box. Eloquent, magnificent and inspiring addresses were delivered by David Lawson, Professor A. J. Davis, Harry R. Wilson, S. K. Clarke, J. H. Patrick, Judge W. W. Barr, R. D. Campbell, J. B. Patrick, and Frank R. Hindman. Kindly words of encouragement and greeting to Doctor Elder and the congregation were expressed by Reverends H. E. Wiend, J. C. Gilette, L. J. Shoemaker, and G. A. B. Robinson. The concluding address was made by Dr. McClelland. Reverend Dr. Elder feelingly pronounced the invocatory words and this was followed by congregational singing. The words of the hymn sung were as follows:

An earthly temple here we raise,  
Lord, God, our Savior, to thy praise!  
Oh, make thy gracious presence known  
While now we lay its corner-stone.

Within the house thy servants rear  
Deign by thy Spirit to appear;  
On all its walls salvation write  
From corner-stone to topmost height.

And when this temple "made with hands"  
Upon its firm foundation stands,  
Oh, may we all with loving hearts  
In nobler building bear a part.

Where every polished stone shall be  
A human soul won back to thee;  
All resting upon Christ alone,  
The chief and precious Corner-stone.

So when our toil is o'er at last,  
All labor in both temples passed;  
Oh, may it then by works be shown  
That faith had laid this corner-stone.

After the singing of this hymn the audience marched to the new edifice, where Miss Mary S. Montgomery, (now Mrs. Banks Wilson), a daughter of the first pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Clarion, deposited a receptacle in the stone wall at the right of the Wood Street entrance, a copper box containing papers which will be of very great interest years hence. A finely dressed stone was placed by workmen over the receptacle. When the box was deposited Doctor McClelland offered up a fervent prayer, after which the audience joined in singing "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow," and were dismissed by a benediction by Doctor McClelland.

The copper box mentioned contained the following:

1. History of the First Presbyterian Church of Clarion.
2. History of the building of the old church in 1844 by the late Judge Campbell and published prior to his death.
3. Sketch of the Sabbath School from its organization.
4. Farewell sermon preached by Reverend James Montgomery, first pastor of the church.
5. Sketch of Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.
6. Sketch of Young Ladies' Home and Foreign Missionary Society.
7. History of Young Peoples' Society for Christian Endeavor.
8. History of Junior Young Peoples' Society for Christian Endeavor.
9. History of Ladies' Church Association.
10. Statement of efforts in building new church up to the time of the laying of the corner-stone.
11. Engravings of old church and parsonage.
12. Copy of invocation hymn.
13. Copies of papers, to-wit: The Clarion Democrat; Clarion Republican Gazette, Clarion Jacksonian, New Bethlehem Vindicator, Clarion County National, East Brady Review and New Bethlehem Leader.
14. Religious papers, to-wit: Presbyterian Banner, Presbyterian New York Observer, Presbyterian Journal, Herald & Presbyter, Interior & Presbyterian Messenger.

The new church was first occupied as a place of worship on Sabbath, March 8, 1896, Reverend J. S. Elder, D.D., the pastor, preaching the first sermon therein. The text of Doctor Elder's first sermon in the new church was the last clause of the Thirteenth Verse of the Sixtieth Chapter of Isaiah, to-wit: "I will make the place of my feet glorious." The text was very appropriate for the occasion and the sermon founded upon it was one of the very best of the many eloquent and logical sermons delivered by Doctor Elder.

The new church building was impressively dedicated on Sabbath, March 15, 1896, by Doctor Elder, commencing at ten thirty o'clock A. M., Reverend J. Albert Rondthaler, D.D., of Indianapolis, Indiana, preached a strong sermon, his text being the last clause of the Twenty-fourth Verse of the Twentieth Chapter of Exodus, to-wit: "In all places where I record my name I will come unto Thee and I will bless Thee." At the close of his sermon Doctor Rondthaler made an earnest appeal for subscriptions to cover the balance of the church indebtedness and in about one hour nearly Six Thousand Dollars, being several Hundred Dollars more than the remaining indebtedness, was pledged.

Congratulatory Addresses were delivered by Ministers of Clarion and elsewhere, and every night from the eighth to the twenty-second of March, 1896, there were services in the new edifice, different Ministers occupying the pulpit.

The present members of the Church who were familiar with the

old church building will understand and appreciate the following description of the new Church written by someone at the time of the completion:

"On last Sunday morning, March 8, 1896, the massive doors of the new First Presbyterian Church were thrown open to the public, who soon filled the sacred edifice. With what emotion its members gazed upon its beauties we know not, but we do know that their happiness was reflected on their beaming faces. The general public for a time could scarcely realize the scene. The massive arches of polished oak; the beautiful frescoed walls; the solid, comfortable pews, all cushioned; the rich carpet, glittering chandeliers, handsome pulpit, magnificant Sunday School room, almost stunned them. We believe, however, that without a single exception every heart lifted a silent prayer of thankfulness that so grand an offering to the Lord had been made from the Christians of that time."

Situate on Wood Street at the corner of Seventh Avenue, fronting on Wood Street, stands the massive native stone structure, imposing in its design and magnificant in its proportions.

The church proper contains a seating capacity of four hundred seventy-five and the adjoining Sunday School Room two hundred seventy-five. The pews are of natural hard-wood with oil finish, with cushions of the latest pattern, and very comfortable. They are raised in the rear and gradually drop toward the pulpit and are semi-circular at the sides. There is a platform on which stands the pulpit and reading desk, and back of this, slightly elevated, is the choir space and pipe organ.

Handsome sliding plush curtains separate the main part of the church from the Sunday School room, but in such a manner as to make the Sunday School room available for additional church use for large gatherings. Various small Sunday School rooms join the sides of the main assembly room of the Sunday School section.

The pastor's study in the north-east corner of the building is as complete as it is possible to make a study, and the Young Ladies' Missionary Society that fitted it up must have spent much time and study in perfecting its beauty.

The spacious room known as the "Ladies' parlor" occupies the south-east corner of the building.

The church is lighted with one hundred electric lights. A large chandelier in the main body of the church, one in the Sunday School Assembly Room, with seven electric candle stick brackets at different places along the sides of the wall, adequately light all parts of the church.

The large inner doors of the church are finished with plate glass. The main entrance to the church is through a spacious vestibule fronting on Wood Street. The church contains three additional entrances, one on the south-west corner from Seventh Avenue, one at the south-east corner leading to the Ladies' parlor, and one at the north-east corner leading from Wood Street to the pastor's study.

The church has been fitted up for convenience as well as service. The basement contains a large dining room, with tables, chairs and all equipment necessary for church suppers. A large convenient kitchen adjoins, conveniently arranged with large gas range, water, gas and utensils. A large, comfortable reception room adjoins the dining room in the basement. Another room downstairs contains the Sunday School library. The basement can be entered from an outside entrance on Wood Street, or by an inside entrance at the south-west corner of the church.

In the Infant Sunday School Room are four windows, on which an appropriate verse of Holy Writ was placed in loving remembrance of Blanch Patrick by her father, J. B. Patrick, and mother, Lozzie Ross Patrick. This room is provided with little chairs for the use and comfort of the small pupils.

No bell has yet been placed in the church tower.

In the church proper on each side of the pulpit are located two memorial tablets. The one on the left bears the following inscription:

IN MEMORIAM  
REV. JAMES MONTGOMERY,

Pastor of this Church

From Feb. 15, 1842, to Jan. 7, 1868.

followed by an inscription from Daniel 12:3,

"They that turn many to righteousness  
shall shine as the stars for ever and  
ever."

On the right the tablet contains the following scriptural quotation from Revelations 3:12,

"His that overcometh will I make a  
pillar in the temple of God."

and at the time of the dedication of the new church was blank, but after the death of Reverend Elder the following was placed on the tablet:

IN MEMORIAM  
REV. JAMES S. ELDER, D.D.,

Pastor of this Church

From March 1, 1868, to December 1, 1896.

In former years it was necessary for the minister to frequently repeat the numbers of the hymns and the responsive reading, and one of the small new improvements in the new church was the placing of tablets at both sides of the pulpit platform which contained the number of the selective reading and the hymns for each service.

The ceiling of the new church is very high and arched and built entirely of fine wood. The color scheme of the interior furnishings and frescoing was a soft olive green. The matter of the furnishing of the church was left entirely in the hands of a committee of ladies appointed by the Ladies' Church Association, the members of the committee being Mrs. J. Frank Ross, Chairman, Miss Mary Montgomery (now Mrs. Banks Wilson), Mrs. Lucy E. Alexander, Mrs. Ed. M. Wilson, and Mrs. Archie Thompson. The good taste and judgment displayed in the furnishing is only what might have been expected of this wisely chosen committee.

From the time the congregation decided to build the new church every member of the church elected himself or herself a committee of one to work for the new edifice and help in accomplishing the object in view. Suppers, entertainments, and other popular forms of money making were resorted to in the effort to accumulate money, all of which received a generous share of patronage. Too much credit cannot be given the members of the Ladies' Association of the Presbyterian Church for their interest and many long years of hard work in raising funds for all church purposes and particularly for the new church.

Among the novel ways of raising money for the church was the following of an idea suggested by Mr. John Shick, then editor of the "Clarion Jacksonian," to the Ladies' Church Association that they get out a special Woman's edition of the "Clarion Jacksonian." The members of the Ladies' Church Association immediately realized the possibilities and organized for the purpose of getting out the special edition. The business committee met with the most flattering success. The city advertisers met them kindly and patronized them liberally. The editorial department produced such excellent work that their friends began to think that they had only found their vocations, while the subscription committee was busy securing subscriptions. The paper was a success—eighteen pages of fine paper, illustrated with fine cuts, full of excellent literature, and was a grand success. The total net sum secured from this enterprise was One Thousand Four Hundred Three and 04-100 Dollars. The paper was issued Friday, January 31, 1896.

The editorial and business staff was as follows: Editor-in-Chief, Mrs. G. E. Robinson, Associate Editors, Mrs. G. W. Coblenz and Mrs. Frank R. Hindman; Business Managers, Miss Mary Z. Montgomery, Mrs. John J. Shick; Advertising Managers, Mrs. J. Frank Ross, Mrs. R. D. Campbell, Mrs. C. F. Corbett, Mrs. Charles C. Ross; City Editor, Mrs. W. A. Neil; Vicinity News, Miss Mary Maffett.

Department Editors were as follows: Religion, Mrs. C. A. Rankin and Mrs. Charles Fulton; Temperance, Mrs. Theo. S. Wilson; Organizations, Mrs. J. H. Patrick, Mrs. I. M. Shannon, Music and Art, Miss Minnie S. Rodgers and Mrs. Chas. F. Klahr.

Society and Fashions, Mrs. Jacob Black and Mrs. Joseph Murphy; Medical, Mrs. A. G. Corbett and Mrs. David Lawson, Literature, Mrs. Joseph Craig and Mrs. S. K. Clarke. Children's Page, Mrs. G. F. Whitmer and Mrs. Anna Page Longnaker; Education, Miss Mary Delo and Mrs. C. H. Kellar; Household Economy, Mrs. W. W. Barr, and Mrs. James Pinks; Fun and Fancy, Mrs. Lida Clark Litch; Travel and Correspondence, Miss Gertrude Lawson and Mrs. Peter Yeany; Items of Interest, Miss Lavinia Armstrong and Mrs. E. Heath Clark. Proof Reader, Mrs. J. S. Elder. Reporters, Misses Elizabeth Wilson, Margaret Maffett, Lida Lowry, Lottie Patrick, Pearl Shannon, Nellie Wetter, and Anna Maffett.

The Circulating Department was composed of the following members: Manager, Mrs. A. H. Alexander, Circulating Committee, Mrs. Elmira Craig, Mrs. J. H. Frazier, Mrs. John Shettler, Mrs. W. H. Gulland, Mrs. E. M. Sloan, Mrs. James Thompson, Jr., Mrs. John Campbell, Mrs. Davis Wilson, Mrs. A. B. Rankin, and Misses Edith

Clarke, Sara Robinson, Emma McFarland, Hattie Keihl, Fan Craig, Naomi Sloan, Mary Strickler, Margaret Curl, Mary Frampton, Blanch Thomas, Maggie Means, Belle Thompson, Margie Borckman, Mame Wilson, Mattie Neil, Maggie Keihl, Alice Wilson, Fannie Pierce and Mary E. Davis.

The Mailing Department consisted of Mrs. Archie Thompson, Manager, and the following members of the Mailing Committee: Mrs. W. D. Burns, Mrs. Lida B. Borckman, Mrs. James K. Boggs, Mrs. W. E. Eshelman, Mrs. E. M. Lee, Mrs. W. H. Ross and Miss Alzina Beatty.

During the period of the commencement and the completion of the new church building the following named were the Trustees of the church: C. A. Rankin, Harry R. Wilson, S. A. Wilhelm, S. K. Clarke, Frank R. Hindman, John F. Brown and E. M. Lee.

## SECTION 2. THE PARSONAGE

On account of Reverend James Montgomery owning his own home property, which was located on two lots situated at the north-east corner of Main Street and Seventh Avenue, no special necessity arose for the Church to own a Parsonage until several years after Reverend James Elder accepted the call. In 1870, the congregation took up the matter of the purchase of a Parsonage property, and after the usual discussion incident to such matters, on March 31, 1871, two Lots Nos. 109 and 110, on West Wood Street were purchased for the sum of Two Thousand Dollars. A comfortable, two-story, frame dwelling was located on one of the lots and the house was at once occupied by Reverend Elder and for thirty-three years thereafter was known as the Presbyterian Parsonage. The two lots were well filled with old fruit trees, and when the different varieties of fruit were in season Mrs. Elder's unusual hospitality made it a favorite gathering place for the young people of the Church. This Parsonage was occupied by three Ministers, Doctor Elder and his family occupying the site from the year 1871 until the year of his death. The Parsonage was then occupied for some little time by Mrs. Elder, and after her removal from the Parsonage it was occupied by Reverend George B. Robinson and family, who occupied it until the time of his resignation, after which time it was occupied by Reverend W. F. Fleming from the beginning of his pastorate until the Fall of 1904, when he moved to the Parsonage which was purchased on east Wood Street. In 1890 the first Parsonage was extensively remodeled at a cost of about Eleven Hundred Dollars, which improvements made it a comfortable modern dwelling with all conveniences.

In 1904 some of the officers of the Church conceived the idea that it would be better to have the Church Parsonage nearer the present Church building. Consequently, on August 27, 1904, for a consideration of Two Thousand Dollars the Church purchased for a Parsonage property Lot No. 140 on east Wood Street, which contained a small, frame dwelling house, which was improved and later occupied by Reverend Fleming, and after his resignation it was occupied by Reverend Glenn M. Shafer, until he moved to the new stone manse on Seventh Avenue. The old Parsonage property was sold for

Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars on August 29, 1904, and the second Parsonage property was sold September 6, 1913, for Two Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars. A large number of the congregation was not specifically satisfied with the second Parsonage property and felt that in many respects it did not adequately answer the purpose, and practically from the time of the purchase of the same, members of the congregation began discussing the question of building a new Parsonage, and after some years of discussion, on November 7, 1912, the congregation authorized the Trustees to purchase the lot adjoining the south of the Church, facing Seventh Avenue, and on November 16, 1912, this lot was purchased for the sum of Two Thousand Three Hundred Dollars. Soon after this a Committee was appointed, plans were made for a Manse that would harmonize with the Church and fittingly complete the Church plant and adequately provide all possible Parsonage needs for many years to come. At a Sabbath morning service held February 16, 1913, almost Six Thousand Dollars was pledged toward the building of the new Manse. To this amount was added a Thousand Dollar bequest by John F. Brown, a balance of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars from the sale of the first Manse, and all of the proceeds from the sale of the second Manse.

The Building Committee was composed of C. W. Amsler, Harry M. Rimer, Oliver H. Culbertson, Mrs. John F. Brown and Miss Elizabeth Wilson. When Miss Wilson removed from Clarion on account of her marriage, she was succeeded on the Building Committee by Mrs. Frank K. Brown. After considerable work, plans submitted by the Building Committee were unanimously adopted, ground was broken on July 21, 1913, and the new Manse was finished and ready for occupancy on December 15, 1914. The building is an unusually fine looking structure of native sand-stone, equipped with all modern conveniences, and was planned throughout with the idea of amply providing all Parsonage needs for both the present and the future. The cost of the Parsonage completed was Eleven Thousand Dollars.

### SECTION 3. THE MINISTERS

The first sermon preached to the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Clarion was delivered by Reverend Polk on May 15, 1841, at the organization of the Church, and was delivered in the loft or second story of the old County Jail. At this same meeting an application was made to Presbytery for supplies,—whereupon, Reverend Core and Reverend McMical were appointed to supply, each one day, and, in pursuance of the appointments, Reverend McMical preached his first sermon on the second Sabbath of July, 1841, and those two Ministers looked after the affairs of the Church until the Fall of 1841. On September 27, 1841, a call was moderated for Reverend James Montgomery to preach half of his time to the Clarion Presbyterian Congregation, and was presented to Allegheny Presbytery at their October meeting, which call was accepted, and on the first Sabbath of November, 1841, Reverend James Montgomery commenced his ministerial labors as Pastor of said congregation, which continued for more than twenty-six years, when on account of his health Reverend Montgomery requested and obtained leave to resign the charge of the Church. The relation of Pastor to this Church was dissolved on January 7, 1868, to take effect on the 31st

day of January, 1868. One-half of his time was given the Church of Richland until 1845, when Presbytery transferred him from Richland to New Rehobeth Church.



**Rev. James Montgomery**

Reverend James Montgomery was born in Ireland in 1811, immigrating to America in 1817. He was graduated from the Theological Seminary at Allegheny in the Spring of 1841, soon thereafter beginning his pastorate in Clarion. He married Jane J. Jeffries in 1845, but she lived only a year after their marriage. Then ten years later he married Miss Margaret Zahnizer, of Mercer, Pa., and two daughters were born to them, viz: Kate Montgomery, now Mrs. T. W. Raine, and Mary Montgomery, now Mrs. Banks Wilson. The entire life of Reverend Montgomery was given to the Church of which he was the first regular Pastor. Reverend Montgomery had charge of the Church during a long period of time when the congregation was in its poorest financial condition and the struggles of the Church were the greatest, and the fact that he continually and steadily increased the membership and held the congregation together during so many periods of financial stress, is the best evidence of his executive ability and worth as Pastor. During his pastorate, in 1857 and 1858 the Church was blessed with a revival when thirty-eight members were added, and again in 1866 a successful revival was held, when many members were added, but its growth as a rule was gradual. When Reverend Montgomery resigned the total membership was one hundred five members, its finances were soundly established, and there was perfect harmony among the members. Reverend

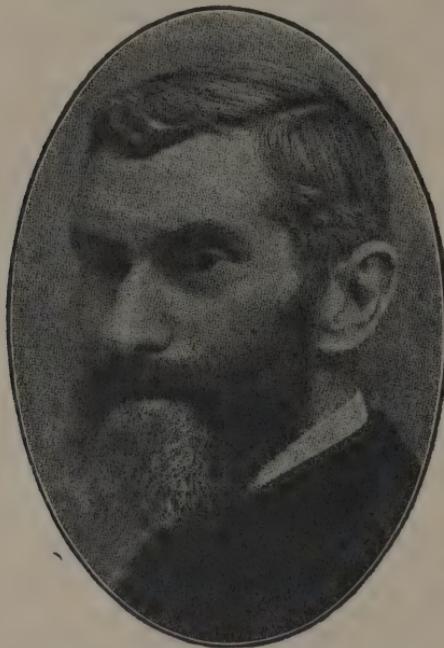
Montgomery died August 10, 1871. A contemporary, in writing of Reverend Montgomery, made the following statement: "To say that the Reverend James Montgomery was beloved does not express the devotion of his people to him. His name is spoken but in praise." In the last sermon preached in the old Church, the Pastor said in speaking of him: "His memory is as the odor of a sweet smell, and he is, we doubt not, numbered among the wise that shall 'shine as the brightness of the firmament'". Reverend Montgomery was survived by Mrs. Montgomery and his two daughters, who shares with the Pastor the love of his people. Mrs. Montgomery, by reason of advancing years, was not active in Church work after the death of her husband, but the two daughters diligently took up the threads dropped by the Mother and were active, intelligent workers in every interest of the Church. Kate Montgomery, now Mrs. T. W. Raine, resides at Girard, Pennsylvania, and Mary Montgomery, now Mrs. Banks Wilson, resides at Creston, Iowa. After the death of Reverend Montgomery the congregation placed a large white marble memorial tablet in the old Presbyterian Church, on the wall to the left of the pulpit, which bore the following inscription: "In Memory of Reverend James Montgomery, Pastor of this Church from February 15, 1842, to January 7, 1868." When the new stone church was finished the memorial tablet to Reverend Montgomery, hereinbefore described, was placed.

The second regular Pastor of the Church was Reverend James S. Elder. The congregational meeting which accepted the resignation of Reverend Montgomery voted a unanimous call to Reverend James S. Elder to become Pastor, and he accepted.

James S. Elder was born at Elders Ridge, Pa., May 30, 1829. He was educated at Jefferson College and the Western Theological Seminary. In 1859 he accepted his first charge, being the churches of New Bethlehem and Greenville. In 1863 he removed to Corsica, whence he was called to Clarion and New Rehobeth, and was installed to Clarion alone in 1875, after which time he devoted all of his time to the Clarion Church. His was another pastorate remarkably alike for its length, harmony, effectiveness and spirituality. For twenty-eight years he ministered not only to the Church, but as well to the community. He was a leader in Clarion Presbytery for the entire period, being Stated Clerk for twenty-eight years. His standing in the affairs of Presbyterism was high, and he had the honor to be chosen Moderator of the Synod of Erie at Indiana in 1879. He remained Pastor of the Church until his death, December 1, 1896, although failing health compelled him to relinquish the pulpit for several months preceding. The prosperity which had hitherto attended this Church continued with it. In 1876 a revival occurred under Dr. Elder's administration, when fifty-four were received into the Church. In 1892 fifty-one were added during another special season of grace, and the awakening of 1895 when seventy-six members were received on examination, was largely due to the great efforts of Reverend Elder. At the time of the dedication of the new Church by Reverend Elder, the Church membership was three hundred sixty-four.

Reverend Elder was married on December 22, 1858, to Miss Nancy Barnett, of Hillside, Pennsylvania, and she proved to be of

great assistance to him in all of his Church duties, and was as diligent and successful in her part of the Church work as was Reverend Elder in his. Three children were born to them, of whom Birdie Elder died in infancy, J. W. Elder, now residing at Albuquerque, New Mexico, and James E. Elder, deceased, formerly residing at Tucson, Arizona. Mrs. Elder survived her husband a number of years, dying January 25, 1912, at the age of seventy-eight years.

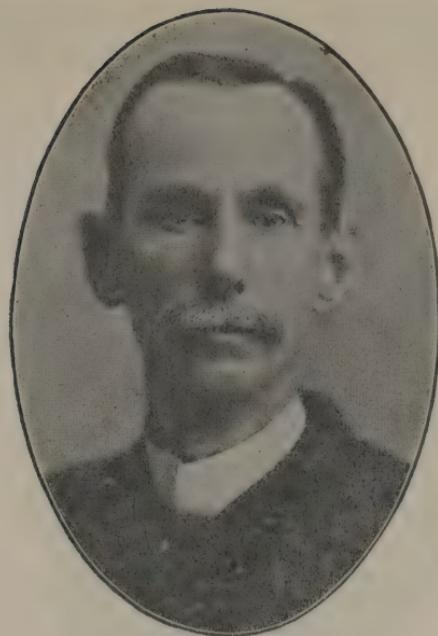


Rev. James S. Elder, D. D.

One who knew Mr. and Mrs. Elder for many years, wrote of them as follows: "Who does not know Reverend Elder, his quiet, gentle ways, his mild countenance from which plainly beams the love God and charity to all men. To know him is to love him and honor him, as falls to the late of few men to be so loved and honored. It is not for his greatness that he is so loved and honored, though he is great; neither is it for his eloquence for the preaching of the gospel, though he is eloquent—but for himself, his goodness, his sweetness of character—for that which is lacking in other men."

"He is a man, taking him for all in all,  
We shall not look upon his like again."

In all the Pastor's earnest service extending over so many years, he has had a most faithful helper and co-worker in Mrs. Elder, who was untiring in her efforts for the good of the Master's cause, sparing not herself, thinking not of her own comfort, and she has, indeed, been a helpmeet such as few men have been blessed with."



**Rev. George Robinson**

The third Pastor of our Church was Reverend George B. Robinson. Reverend George Robinson lived in Clarion and preached at New Rehobeth and Greenville. At a congregational meeting on January 7, 1897, he was called to the pastorate, and was soon thereafter installed. Reverend Robinson was a graduate of Washington and Jefferson College. He was raised in the United Presbyterian Church, and has been graduated from the Allegheny Theological Seminary. He held pastorates at Brookville, Emsworth, New Rehobeth and Greenville. He was married May 8, 1863, to Anna Ballentyne, who like her husband was born and reared in Pittsburgh. They were the parents of three children, all of whom are living: Mrs. Archie Barlett, Miss May Robinson and Mrs. William Scott. For six years Reverend Robinson labored zealously to buildup the Church. The growth was quiet and steady, each year shows accessions to membership, Reverend Robinson offered his resignation from the pastorate in April, 1902, to accept a call at the Church at Parker, Pennsylvania. That Church flourished under his ministry, a handsome stone Church and beautiful Manse being erected. He continued his ministry at that place to the very hour of his death, which occurred on Saturday, December 18, 1909, as he was completing his sermon for the following day.

The fourth Pastor of the Church was Reverend William F. Fleming, a graduate of Western Theological Seminary in the Class of 1903. He was installed Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Clarion, Pennsylvania, on May 26, 1903.



**Rev. William F. Fleming**

He was united in marriage August 10, 1904, to Miss Charlotte Schoenfelt of Bruin, Pennsylvania, and during his pastorate at Clarion they were blessed by the birth of a son, John Calvin Fleming, on May 9, 1905. This son graduated at Wooster College, Wooster, Ohio, and at present is a teacher in German Township High School near Uniontown, Pennsylvania. On June 2, 1930, he was married to Eugenia Loucks, of the same town, and one son, William Franklin Fleming, II, was born by this marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Fleming greatly endeared themselves to all the people of Clarion during their years of residence here and several very tempting calls came, unsolicited, to him, but were refused at the earnest request of the congregation until the Spring of 1911 when Reverend Fleming accepted a call from the First Presbyterian Church of Tarentum, Pennsylvania. The congregation reluctantly acceded to the request to Presbytery at a meeting held February 15, 1911, and began Ministry there April 1, 1911.

The eight years of his pastorate at Clarion were of even faith and zealous ministry and were years of spiritual growth, of increase in membership and efficiency in every department of the Church.

When he became Pastor in 1903 the membership of the Church was three hundred twenty-four, and the last year of his pastorate the membership Church had been increased to four hundred forty. This growth was partially due to the memorable Evangelical Meetings which began February 17, 1907, in which the Baptist and Presbyterian Churches united. There were at that time seventy-seven accessions on confession of faith and during the year one hundred additions to the membership.

It was during Reverend Fleming's pastorate that the funds were subscribed at a Sunday morning service for the new pipe organ now in use in the Church.

While at Tarentum, Pennsylvania, Reverend Fleming took a post graduate course at Western Theological Seminary, receiving the degree of B.D. Also, he was largely instrumental in having a new manse erected in 1914.

On account of poor health he resigned, moved to Butler County, and as his health improved he did supply work. Later he was called to the First Presbyterian Church, Ligonier, Pennsylvania, and began work there April 1, 1919, and continued as Pastor until August 1, 1925. During this time a new Church Manse was purchased.

Later he was called to the First Presbyterian Church in West Newton, Pennsylvania, and began pastorate there September 1, 1925, and continued twelve and one-half years, until illness caused him to resign January 31, 1938. Since that time he and his family have lived in Scottdale, Pennsylvania, but by reason of ill health he has been unable to do any active ministerial work.

During his pastorate at Tarentum, Pennsylvania, on February 21, 1916, a daughter, Martha Valeria Fleming, was born to Reverend and Mrs. Fleming. She graduated at Wooster College, Wooster, Ohio, in 1937, and at Carnegie Technical Library School in 1938 and is at present a Librarian at two branches of the Carnegie Library System.

By reason of ill health Reverend Fleming has written a letter regretting that he will be unable to attend the Centennial Celebration of the Founding of the Church and to greet and visit with his many friends in Clarion.

Reverend William F. Fleming now resides at 909 North Chestnut Street, Scottdale, Pennsylvania.

The fifth Pastor of the Church was Reverend Glenn M. Shafer and at a Congregational Meeting held June 8, 1911, he was called from Bryan, Ohio, to become the Pastor. He was installed on the evening of August 8, 1911, and being the fifth regular Pastor of our Church during the period of seventy-five years.

Reverend Shafer is a noted native of Ohio, a graduate of Heidelberg University and of Princeton Theological Seminary. He was ordained to the Ministry in 1908 and before coming to Clarion held one pastorate at Bryan, Ohio.

On November 11, 1908, he was united in marriage to Miss Helen Maybery of Tiffin, Ohio.

Under Reverend Shafer's pastorate the membership of the Church increased from four hundred forty to six hundred thirty-two members, and Reverend Shafer proved to the Congregation that he was in every way capable of sustaining the high standard of excellence set by the former Pastors of our Church.

In May, 1917, he received a call to the Second Presbyterian Church, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and preached his farewell sermon in Clarion on Sunday, July 8, 1917. He has continued to serve as Pastor of the Carlisle Church and is now completing his twenty-fourth year there.



**Rev. Glenn M. Shafer, D. D.**

He participated in the organization of the Clarion County Red Cross Society in the Spring of 1917 and became the Cumberland County Chairman of the Home Service Department of the Red Cross in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in which position he served during the World War.

In 1926 he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Dickenson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. In 1928 he was elected Seated Clerk of the Synod of Pennsylvania and in this position he is now serving his fifth term of three years each.

He was one of the organizers of the Presbyterian Home of Central Pennsylvania, the first President of the same, and is now a member of the Board of Trustees. He is a Trustee of Wilson College at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and of the Presbytery of Carlisle and the Synod of Pennsylvania. He was a charter member and is a member of the various Masonic bodies.

The sixth Pastor of the Church was Frank S. Montgomery, who was born October 28, 1881, at New Vernon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, and was the son of Samuel G. Montgomery and Callie Belle Montgomery.

He was graduated from Duff's Mercantile College, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, August 6, 1902, and taught in the Township Schools in Mercer County on 1901 and 1902, and in the Public Schools in Allegheny County in 1903 and 1904.



**Rev. Frank S. Montgomery**

In 1907 he graduated from Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania, with the degree of Ph. B., and graduated from Western Theological Seminary May 5, 1910, and was ordained to the Gospel Ministry in the Presbyterian Church July 15, 1910, in the First Presbyterian Church of Bowerston, Ohio, and served the Churches of Scio, Ohio, and Bowerston, Ohio, from July 15, 1910, until June 1, 1913. On June 1, 1913, he was called to Calvary Church, Canton, Ohio, and served there until February 1, 1916, then was called by the First Presbyterian Church, Derry, Pennsylvania, and served there as

Pastor of the Church from February 1, 1916, to March 31, 1918, at which time he came to the First Presbyterian Church of Clarion, Pennsylvania, and served as Pastor here from April 1, 1918, until March 31, 1924, when he was called to the Presbyterian Church of Charleroi, Pennsylvania, on April 1, 1924, and has served as Pastor of that Church from that date until the present time, and in March of the year 1941 his Church celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of its establishment, and Reverend Montgomery was very active in the Fiftieth anniversary Celebration.

On June 29, 1910, Reverend Montgomery was joined in marriage to Miss Nettie E. Fair of Cowansville, Pennsylvania, and from this union on November 4, 1911, one daughter was born, Nevada Grace Montgomery.

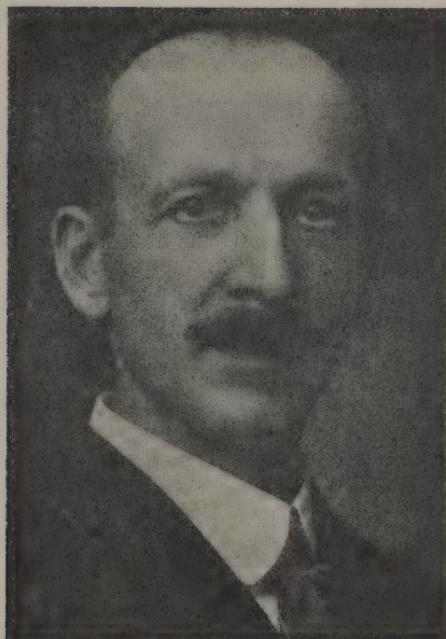
During his six years pastorate at the First Presbyterian Church in Clarion, Pennsylvania, both Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery were very active in all branches of the Church work and Reverend Montgomery was also active in the civic affairs of Clarion. Both Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery made many friends in Clarion who were sorry to see them leave our community. Reverend Montgomery during this period of time very successfully maintained in a highly competent manner the high ministerial standards set by his former Pastors.

The seventh Pastor of the Church was Reverend James Edward Hutchison. He was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, February 27, 1865, and was graduated from Washington and Jefferson College with honors in 1890, taking the prize in English literature. After spending a year in travel he entered the Western Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, being graduated there in 1894.

His first pastorate of nine years was at Irwin, Pennsylvania, and from Irwin he went to the Mahoning Church at Danville, Pennsylvania, where he served five years. From there he went to the First Presbyterian Church, Scottdale, Pennsylvania, which he served in a notable pastorate of seventeen years. It was while at Scottdale that Reverend Hutchison organized the Church Camp or Summer Home as a part of the equipment of the First Presbyterian Church of Scottdale, Pennsylvania, and under whose supervision it originated and developed. It was a practical application of the idea that the Church can provide a social life for its young people that will be all they desire in an atmosphere that is morally pure and religiously Christian. The camp consists of ten acres of ground by a beautiful trout stream. A bungalow forty-four feet square has two bunk rooms and a dining hall, a kitchen, and a bedroom in the rear. Either a Pastor or a visiting Minister preaches on Sunday afternoons. There are all sorts of lawn games, rocking chairs and swings on porch and lawn, and entertainment and games provided for evenings and rainy days. In addition there were six tents so that as many as seventy-five people were accommodated at one time. The Congregation subscribed the money for the equipment and the Camp is open about three months each year. The boys who belong to the Boys' Bible Class of the Church were given a two weeks outing, and then the girls a two weeks outing, after which families of the Congregation make up crowds and take possession of the Camp. An attendance of seventy-five per cent on Bible study during the Winter had to be secured for

the boys and girls to be eligible for the Sumner outing, and Sunday School was conducted every Sunday morning, the record of which was kept as a part of the Home School. This Camp attracted a great deal of favorable attention and comment and an illustrated article regarding the same appeared in the Ladies' Home Journal of May, 1916.

Reverend Hutchison was called as Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Clarion, Pennsylvania, and took over his charge October 1, 1924, and served as Pastor until May 1, 1930, a period of over five years, until broken health compelled him to retire. During his pastorate here he was most efficiently aided in all Church activities by his wife, who endeared herself to all members of the Congregation and to her acquaintances and associates in Clarion outside of our Church.



Rev. James E. Hutchison, D. D.

Reverend Hutchison was a man of no ordinary gifts. In the pulpit he ministered with pleasing and forceful eloquence and in his pastoral labors he was unusually diligent, working at high tension at all times. His relations with fellow Ministers were unusually tender and faithful. In his personal life he was a man of rare faith and great cheerfulness.

Reverend Hutchison died near Gastonia, North Carolina, on Saturday, October 31, 1931, at 9:30 o'clock A. M., while on a motor trip

to Florida where he and Mrs. Hutchison were planning to spend the winter. He died from a heart attack.

The Resolutions adopted December 13, 1931, by the Session of the Church in regard to Reverend Hutchison's services here and his death were as follows:

"Be it Resolved, that in recognition that under his leadership and ministry our Church prospered and the Kingdom was advanced and his virtue and good works live on as a constant inspiration to us.

"Be it Resolved that we recognize as a Session in our intimate relation with him, he was a tower of strength to us, a wise and efficient counselor, a splendid executive, a dearly beloved friend, and in times of stress and uncertainty as the shadow of a rock in a weary land.

"Be it Resolved, that in his death we recognize in his being taken from us the gracious goodness of the Heavenly Father in thus crowning a life of devoted service on earth to the fuller service and joy of the Church Triumphant.

"Be it Resolved that as a Session we extend our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved wife and loving sons who have also so endeared themselves to us, knowing that in their own Christian Faith they will find that comfort which the world cannot give or take away."

Reverend Hutchison rests in the Robinson Cemetery adjoining the Robinson United Presbyterian Church, in Washington County, Pennsylvania, and within seven miles of his boyhood home.

There were left to cherish his memory besides a great number of devoted friends in his several parishes and many fellow Presbyters, his wife, Mary J. Bigger, whom he married August 29, 1894; two sons, James B. Hutchison of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Harold A. Hutchison of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; two sisters, Mrs. Martha Moody of Clinton, Pennsylvania, and Margaret L. Hutchison of the Forsythe Memorial in Los Angeles, California; and three brothers, Robert B. Hutchison, of Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania, William A. Hutchison, of Tarentum, Pennsylvania, and Alvin E. Hutchison, of Crafton, Pennsylvania.

The eighth and present Pastor of the Church is Reverend Claire McKay Stewart, who was educated at Westminster College and Pittsburgh Xenia Theological Seminary and in the year 1932 received the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity from the Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania. Between College and Seminary, because of ill health, he entered business with his father-in-law for four years after which he entered and graduated from the above seminary in 1924. He has also taken considerable post graduate work. He was ordained by the Presbytery of Lake United Presbyterian Church. He acted as Pastor from March 1, 1931, until March 20, 1931, when he was received by letter from Lake Presbytery of United Presbyterian Church of North America and the Church's call was placed in his hands and accepted by him and upon the Session's request Presbytery

arranged to install him as Pastor of the Church immediately following adjournment at 7:30 P. M., March 20, 1931, when the Congregation was assembled for this purpose. Reverend Roy F. Miller of Reynoldsville presided and propounded the constitutional questions and at proper time also delivered the charge to the Pastor. Reverend Albert W. Wright, Pisgah Church, delivered charge to the Congregation. Preceding the formal installation Scripture was read by Reverend J. Wallace Fraser, D.D., of New Bethlehem, Pa. Prayer was offered by Reverend M. P. Steele, Bethesda Church, Rimersburg, and the sermon was preached by Reverend H. F. Earseman, D.D., of the Edenburg Presbyterian Church, on Text—Isaiah 9-6. Special music was rendered by the choir. After benediction pronounced by Reverend Stewart the Congregation came forward to extend greetings and best wishes to Reverend and Mrs. Stewart.



Reverend Stewart has filled the following Pastorates: Clinton United Presbyterian Church, Clinton, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, three years; First United Presbyterian Church, Oil City, Pennsylvania, six years, and First Presbyterian Church, Clarion, Pennsylvania, ten years.

Among his civic activities Reverend Stewart was a member of the Oil City Lions Club and District Governor of Lions Clubs of the State of Pennsylvania in the year 1932, member of Clarion Kiwanis Club, member of Clarion Business Men's Club and Thirty-second Degree Mason in the Masonic Lodge. At present he holds the following Church offices: Chairman, National Missions Committee Synod of

Pennsylvania; Chairman, National Missions Committee Presbytery of Clarion; Chairman, Committee on Pastoral Relations, Clarion Presbytery; Benevolence Treasurer, Clarion Presbytery; member National Staff, Board of National Missions Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., and member Centennial Committee, Clarion Presbytery.

While Pastor at Clinton, Pennsylvania, a new brick church was erected at a cost of Fifty Thousand Dollars to replace the former church building which was one hundred years old.

When Pastor of the Oil City United Presbyterian Church he was largely instrumental in liquidating the indebtedness of the Church of Four Thousand Dollars, and doubled the Benevolence Budget of the Church. His membership there grew steadily and he was chairman of Young People's Work in Lake Presbytery. The young people of the Church received the highest honor award of the denomination. He was chairman of arrangements for the Oil City National Convention of the Denomination held at Conneaut Lake Park, Pennsylvania. Also, during his stay in Oil City he was active in civic and community affairs, serving on the Community Fund Board and was President of the Ministerial Association, along with other activities.

During his Pastorate at Oil City, Pennsylvania, he acted with prominence in church and civic affairs.

During his Pastorate at Clarion, Pennsylvania, he inaugurated Union Evening Services through the Summer months and inaugurated a Union Reception for College Students each Fall, had Session increased from eight to twelve members, held Memorial Services for Doctor Hutchison, former Pastor, and Judge Frank L. Harvey, Former Teacher of the Men's Class in the Sunday School.

The Congregation has held several receptions in honor of Reverend Stewart, including the one when the Doctor of Divinity Degree was given him by Grove City College.

Three hundred forty-five new members have been received into the Church during his ten year Pastorate.

He was chosen by Presbytery to head its Loyalty Crusade, which was highly successful.

During his Pastorate, Mr. Elmer Brisbin, Senior Elder was made Elder Emeritus in recognition of his long years of service.

As Pastor he has been very active in all of the work of the Church and during the years of depression has wisely guided the Church in all matters. He is much in demand as a speaker and is recognized as one of the outstanding preachers in this section.

No finer tribute could be paid to Reverend Stewart's ten years Pastorate than the response of the Congregation in over-subscribing the Centennial Fund or Budget of Ten Thousand Dollars by One Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-four and 14-100 Dollars. This campaign was conducted in November, 1940, to finance the Centennial, renovate the Church and retire all outstanding debt.

Reverend Stewart was united in marriage to Harriet E. Carkhuff of Westford, Pennsylvania, and two sons, James Walter Stewart and Claire McKay Stewart, Jr., were born by this marriage. His wife has

been active in Church duties and has ably assisted him in different branches of Church work during his different Pastorates.

During his Pastorate here Reverend Stewart has in every way maintained the high standard of all around excellence set by the former Pastors of our Church.

#### SECTION 4. THE OFFICERS AND CONGREGATION.

In addition to the original three Elders, in after years the following men served as Elders of the Church:

Alexander Guthrie was received as an Elder from New Rehobeth in 1843.

Robert Sutton and John P. Grier were ordained in 1854; G. W. Lathy and James F. Mackey in 1859; Jesse D. Porter, Daniel Delo and Nathan Myers in 1868; David Lawson and Anthony Bonnett ordained in 1877; Alfred L. Ivory and A. J. Davis in 1887; John C. McComb in 1888; Dr. S. A. Wilhelm, George Means, and W. D. Burns in 1895. October 25, 1903, S. S. Wilson, J. E. Corbett, Harry R. Wilson, and Elmer E. Brisbin; March 7, 1909, Dr. J. George Becht and C. W. Amsler.

At a meeting on January 21, 1914, the congregation after mature consideration and discussion, adopted the rotary system of Eldership, and since this was done the following have been added to the Session of the Church: S. M. Crooks in 1914, W. B. Rankin, H. S. Manson, and Samuel Pickens in 1915, and C. A. Middlesworth in 1916; Lucien M. Simmons, April 13, 1919; Samuel J. Sloan, April 13, 1919, (now serving); George A. Harriger, April 3, 1920; Norman A. Rea, April 2, 1922; Charles E. Zerby, March 300, 1923; Benjamin Stahlman, March 30, 1924; Bird W. Thompson, May 6, 1925; Edward H. Gorsuch, April 27, 1927; Edwin R. Dickson, May 1, 1929; Manley E. MacDonald, April 12, 1931; Walter D. Lindsay, April 17, 1932; A. Roy Lobaugh, April 17, 1932, (now serving); Claire C. Butler, April 2, 1933; Lawrence M. Clark, April 2, 1933; Frederick Jenkins, October 29, 1933; Albert Howe, April 8, 1934; Walter Plummer, April 8, 1934; Clarence C. Conley, April 21, 1935; Donald D. Peirce, April 19, 1936, (now serving); Harry B. Survey, April 19, 1936; George T. Laughlin, April 19, 1936, (now serving); Robert B. Carson, April 19, 1936; J. J. Porter, April 11, 1937; Waldo S. Tippin, December 19, 1938, (now serving); Roscoe Thorn, April 10, 1938; L. Glade Stroupe, April 10, 1938; Frank M. Campbell, April 10, 1938; Howard M. Johnston, April 9, 1939, (now serving); D. Chester McMaster, April 9, 1939, 1939, (now serving); Gerald A. Moore, April 9, 1939, (now serving); Rudolph R. Whitmer, April 14, 1940, (now serving); Clarence A. Kuhner, April 14, 1940, (now serving).

The growth and good work accomplished by the Sunday School, the Christian Endeavor Societies, the Missionary Societies, the Ladies Church Association, and other organizations, has been as good and as well and faithfully performed as the work and improvement in the Church proper. In a Church congregation which has been as well managed, financed and conducted for so many years, and where so many, many, persons have given their time, energy, finances, moral and religious support and business ability, to pick out members

for special mention is almost as hard as trying to pick the prettiest blossom from a field of flowers, but in view of their specially long and faithful years of service, Daniel Delo and David Lawson as Superintendents of the Sunday School deserve mention, each having served about twenty years. J. H. Patrick as Assistant Superintendent and Librarian served in that capacity for many years, as has Elmer E. Brisbin. C. A. Rankin was Treasurer for twenty-five years and performed his services with accuracy, fidelity and honor to himself and the congregation.

The following members, former members, and friends, with their generous contributions, made possible this Centennial celebration and renovation of our church:

Mr. Joseph B. Aites	Mrs. Cora McCullough
Mrs. George Alexander	Mr. and Mrs. D. P. McKinley
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Amsler	Mr. and Mrs. Chester McMasters
Mr. E. E. Amsler	Mrs. Berdella McCarter
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Amsler	Miss Bertha Nair
Miss Muza Anchors	Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Newell
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Baker	Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Noblit
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Barger	Mr. Lloyd Noblit
Dr. and Mrs. R. L. Bastress	Mrs. Cora B. Orr
Mr. and Mrs. William Beatty	Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Paddock
Mrs. Margaret Beck	Dr. and Mrs. D. D. Peirce
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bell	Mrs. Margaret Pickens
Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Black	Dr. Edward Pierce
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Borrowman	Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Pifer
Mr. and Mrs. DeForest Bowman	Miss Anna Pollock
Mr. and Mrs. Milton Brenneman	Mr. and Mrs. Fred Port
Miss Vesta Brinker	Mr. Winfield Port
Mr. Elmer Brisbin	Mr. Fred Port, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Powell Brown	Mr. and Mrs. Harry Potts
Mrs. C. S. Budd	Miss Josephine Powell
Miss Betty Budd	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Powell
Miss Laura Byers	Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Rankin
Mr. Frank Campbell	Mr. and Mrs. Norman Rea
Mrs. Sarah Campbell	Mr. and Mrs. William Rea
Miss Orpha Capron	Mr. and Mrs. William Reeves
Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Carnahan	Mr. and Mrs. Don Reisinger
Mr. Robert Carson	Mr. and Mrs. George Richards
Miss Nell Clark	Mr. and Mrs. Harry M. Rimer
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Clark	Mr. Harrison Rimer
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Clough	Mr. Edward Rimer
Mr. and Mrs. Andred A. Cogley, Jr.	Miss Alice B. Ross
Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Conley	Mrs. C. C. Ross
Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Cookson	Mrs. Henry Ryther
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Corbett	Miss Hazel Sanford
Miss Ella Corbett	Miss Elizabeth Schuette
Mrs. Jennie Corbett	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Survey
Mrs. Reba Corbett	Mr. and Mrs. Harry Survey
Miss Helen Corbett	Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Showers
Mr. and Mrs. Edw. F. Creevy, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Shreffler
Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Culbertson	Mr. and Mrs. Willard Shreffler
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Curril	Mrs. Alice Siverling

Miss Margaret Curll  
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Cresswell  
Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Davies  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Decker  
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Denio  
Mr. and Mrs. George Duffield  
Miss Nell Dunlap  
Mr. and Mrs. Merle Eberline  
Mrs. Lulu Ecker  
Mr. and Mrs. James Elliott  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ernest  
Mr. George Elslager  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Fenstamaker  
Miss Louise Fenstamaker  
Mrs. Rossie Fox  
Mr. Ward G. Fox  
Mr. Harold Fox  
Miss Pauline Fox  
Miss Mildred Gamble  
Mrs. Belle Goble  
Mr. Gerald Goble  
Miss Dorothy Goble  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gorsuch  
Mrs. Gertrude Greenlee  
Miss Miriam Greenlee  
Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Harding  
Mr. and Mrs. George Harriger  
Miss Erla Harriger  
Mrs. Gertrude Hasselback  
Mr. Fred Hayes  
Dr. and Mrs. L. H. Heeter  
Mrs. Charlotte Himes  
Miss Stella Himes  
Mr. John Laird Himes  
Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Horner  
Mr. and Mrs. Chester Hulings  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jenkins  
Mr. and Mrs. Ross Jardine  
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Johnson  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Johnson  
Mr. Eugene Johnston  
Mr. James Kassell  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Keck  
Miss Rachel Keck  
Mr. Wayne Richard Kellett  
Mr. and Mrs. John Keller  
Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Kellett  
Miss Jane Louise Kellett  
Rev. and Mrs. R. E. Kiern  
Miss Charlotte Kilgour  
Miss Ruth Kuhn  
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Kuhner  
Dr. and Mrs. S. J. Lackey  
Mr. and Mrs. George Laughlin  
Miss Lucille Laughlin  
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Sloan  
Miss Alice Sloan  
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Sloan  
Miss Nancy Sloan  
Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Smathers  
Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Smathers  
Mrs. K. L. Smith  
Mrs. Fannie Snyder  
Mr. and Mrs. R. L. R. Snyder  
Mrs. S. J. Snyder  
Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Spindler  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Spindler  
Mr. Benjamin Stahlman  
Miss Mildred Stahlman  
Mrs. John J. Stahlman  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl V. Starr  
Mr. Richard Starr  
Mr. Donald Starr  
Miss Irene Steltzer  
Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Stewart  
Miss Bernadine Stewart  
Dr. and Mrs. C. M. Stewart  
Mr. Claire Stewart, Jr.  
Mr. Walter Stewart  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Stewart  
Dr. and Mrs. G. E. Strauss  
Mr. and Mrs. Glade Stroup  
Mr. and Mrs. Merritt Sutherland  
Mr. Edward Swarm  
Mrs. Jessie Swarm  
Mrs. B. W. Thompson  
Mr. Bird Thompson  
Miss Ruth Thompson  
Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Thorne  
Mr. Robert Thorne  
Miss Geraldine Thorne  
Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Tippin  
Mr. and Mrs. John Trout  
Miss Helen Walters  
Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Whisner  
Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Whitehill  
Mr. Rudolph Whitmer  
Dr. Edward Wilhelm  
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Wilhelm  
Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Wilhelm  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Williams  
Mrs. Harry R. Wilson  
Mr. Theo. L. Wilson  
Mrs. Ben Wilson  
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Wolf  
Mr. and Mrs. George T. Wolfe  
Mr. Harry Wolfe  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Yeaney  
Mr. Cecil Yeaney  
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Zerby

Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Lesher  
Miss Betty Lewis  
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Lidstone  
Mrs. T. A. Lidstone  
Mr. Duane Lidstone  
Miss Ruth Lidstone  
Miss Mary Lidstone  
Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Lobaugh  
Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Lobaugh  
Mr. Lucius Lowrey  
Mrs. Nancy Maffett  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mahey  
Miss Jane Mahey  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry S. Manson  
Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Marshall, Sr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Marshall  
Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Mase  
Miss Jean Mase  
Miss Ruth Mase  
Miss Helen Mase  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Miller  
Mr. and Mrs. Claude Mohney  
Mr. and Mrs. Foster Mohney  
Miss Helen Mohney  
Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Mohney  
Mr. John Mohney  
Dr. Ben Mooney, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Moore  
Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Murphy  
Miss Mary Alice Myers  
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Myers  
Mrs. Francis Myers  
Mr. John K. Myers  
Mrs. Phoebe McBride  
Mrs. Kathryn McDowell

Miss Pearl Zink  
Mr. and Mrs. John T. Shirley,  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Mr. J. Scott Port,  
Norristown, Pa.  
Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Bensinger,  
Toledo, Ohio  
Mrs. Kate Raine,  
Fairview, Pa.  
Mr. James Leslie Pinks,  
New York, N. Y.  
Mr. and Mrs. LaRue Best,  
Sheffield, Pa.  
Mrs. Mary Port Meyer,  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
Mrs. Myrtle C. Rimer,  
St. Petersburg, Fla.  
\*Ladies' Church Association  
Miss Margaret Cull's Class  
Men's Bible Class  
Mrs. A. R. Newell's Class  
Mr. Jerry Goble's Class  
Mr. Harry Keck's Class  
Sisterhood Class  
Mrs. Floyd Black's Class  
Miss Miriam Greenlee's Class  
Mrs. Harry Wolfe's Class  
Mrs. Cora McCullough's Class  
Mrs. William Beatty's Class  
Beyond College Age Class  
Senior Christian Endeavor

\* Ladies' Church Association  
purchased the carpet at a  
cost of \$3,000.00.

A campaign was conducted in November 1940 to finance this celebration, renovate our church, and retire all outstanding debt:

Budget .....	\$10,000.00
Pledges .....	\$11,374.14

#### SECTION 5. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

On August 29, 1841, Reverend Core administered the Sacrament of the Supper to the Clarion Presbyterians for the first time.

On Saturday, August 28, 1841, the first applications for membership after the organization were received and five new members were admitted.

The first baptism was held on Monday, August 30, 1841, when Richard Wilson and his wife, Elizabeth, presented their children, Thomas Clinton and Mary Elizabeth, for baptism. Also Lucinda Hamilton presented her child, Agnes.

The second baptismal services were held February 28, 1842, when

Abraham and Rebecca Richards presented their daughter, Susanna, (who in after years was well known to the present residents of Clarion as Mrs. Sue Richards Dunlap, wife of William Dunlap. The only present members of our Church who are direct descendants of original organization members are Miss Nell Dunlap, whose grandparents were Abraham and Rebecca Richards, and George Richards, whose grandfather was Abraham Richards.) At the same time Mrs. Mary Boyd presented her daughter, Ann Jane, and John and Nancy Potter presented their daughter, Rebecca Evans.

On Tuesday evening, October 14, 1842, the first man brought before the Session on charges was suspended until the next Communion, having been found guilty of profane swearing. He was restored to his former standing February 19, 1843.

On August 11, 1845, the first woman was brought before the Session on charges of gossiping and was admonished to be particularly guarded in the use of her tongue in the future.

September 16, 1844, the sale of pews was held in the old church, it being customary at that time to have family pews.

January 5, 1845, the Congregation was called together by the ringing of the church bell for the first time. The old bell cost Seventy-five and 80-100 Dollars. It is still in use, having been presented by Theo. L. Wilson to the Helen Furnace Church.

At the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Church, in point of time of admission to the church, Mrs. David Lawson was the oldest living member, having been received on certificate January 25, 1856, dismissed to Oconto, Wisconsin, July 5, 1869, and again received by certificate April 29, 1871, and in point of time of continuous membership, Rear Admiral Albert Ross was the oldest living member, having been received by examination September 24, 1865. Other members received in the "sixties" were Miss Mary A. Love, received January 20, 1866, by examination; Mrs. C. A. Rankin, received July 28, 1868 by certificate; William D. Burns, August 21, 1869, by examination; Mrs. Lizzie Ross Patrick, received by examination January 20, 1866, and Mrs. J. H. Patrick, received by certificate September 1, 1866. In point of years, Mrs. Nancy J. Lyon was the oldest living member of the congregation, as she was eighty-nine years old, and joined the Church February 18, 1871. At the time of the observance of the One Hundredth Anniversary, in point of time of continuous membership, Mrs. A. W. Corbett (Jennie Jones Corbett) and Mrs. W. H. Ross (Bessie Knox Ross) are the two oldest members, having been received as members, respectively, February 23, 1876, and February 21, 1876, and in point of years Mrs. Curtis (Anna) Corbett is the oldest member, being eighty-seven years of age.

Among the men of national fame who instructed or entertained in the old church building were Francis Murphy and George W. Bain, the famous temperance advocates, Hunter Corbett, the missionary, Bob Burdette, the humorist, and Remenyi, the celebrated violinist.

Since the organization of the Church the least number of members was sixteen in 1841, and the greatest number was six hundred thirty-two members in 1916.

The pulpit bible now in use was presented to the Church by Miss Suzanne Beatty at the time of the dedication of the new Church, and has been re-bound and should be of service many more years. The collection plates now in use were presented at the same time by Carrie and George Lacy. The Hymnals in use by the congregation at the Seventy-fifth Anniversary were presented by Mrs. J. Wilson Greenland and Miss Elizabeth Wilson, and the hymnals now in use were purchased by the Church members, many as memorials.

Electric lights were first used in a church in Clarion County, when, through the kindness of James Knox and James Elder, the old church Christmas tree of 1895 was lighted by electricity, which was quite a novelty at that time.

On August 26, 1900, individual communion service was used for the first time and it was the first occasion at which individual communion cups were ever used in Clarion. The cups were of glass and the plates, owing to the necessity of lightness, were of aluminum. Four plates and three hundred eight cups constituted the service at that time. Henry M. Amsler and his wife, Jean Wilson Amsler, have presented the Church a fine individual communion service consisting of twelve trays and four hundred thirty-two cups and bread plates.

The present pipe organ was purchased and installed in the Church in June, 1911, at a cost of Three Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-eight and 36-100 Dollars, and was operated by a water motor, now operated by an electric motor. The members of the committee who selected and purchased the organ were Harry R. Wilson, Mrs. J. Frank Ross, Miss Emma Corbett (now Mrs. Oliver H. Culbertson) and Miss Marie Brown (now Mrs. Ray Davis.)

The old church lot and building were sold February 1, 1896, for Two Thousand One Hundred Dollars.

Reverend James S. Elder, on Sunday, March 1, 1896, preached the last sermon in the old Church, and his text was "Arise, Let Us Go Hence," John 14:31.

The interior walls of the new Church were redecorated in oil colors at a cost of Six Hundred Twenty Dollars, in 1916, shortly before the Seventy-fifth Anniversary services, and in preparation for the celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary new wiring and beautiful new electric lighting fixtures were installed at a cost of One Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-seven Dollars; the interior walls were painted and all the interior woodwork refinished at a cost of One Thousand Three Hundred Fifteen and 20-100 Dollars, and other necessary repairs and replacements in and outside the Church amounted to Seven Hundred Forty and 91-100 Dollars. In addition to the above the Ladies Church Association at a cost of Two Thousand and Seven Hundred Dollars recarpeted the Church.

The Board of Trustees of the Church at the time of the celebration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary were Benjamin Mooney, President, Harry R. Rimer, Treasurer, Edward A. Wilhelm, Secretary, E. Clark Corbett, Financial Secretary, Oliver H. Culbertson, Frank K. Brown and George W. Heeter, and at the celebration of the One

Hundredth Anniversary are: A. R. Newell, President, H. M. Amsler, J. M. Myers, H. M. Rimer, H. S. Spindler and G. W. Wolf.

Rear Admiral Albert Ross gave the money for the purchase of the pulpit now in use in the present Church. It's cost was Two Hundred Seventy-two and 70-100 Dollars.

Mrs. Nancy Campbell, widow of Judge James Campbell, who was one of the members of the Building Committee of the first Church, gave the money to construct the stone entrance to the Church basement on the Wood Street side of the Church.

In 1932 George F. Whitmer and family as a memorial for their wife and mother, Emma McFeatters Whitmer, who was for many years a very capable worker in all of the Church activities, gave a fine illuminated electric cross which is suspended in the chancel of the Church and added much to its attractiveness.

On December 24, 1939, Mrs. Charles C. Ross presented the Church with a beautiful silk American Flag in memory of her late husband, Doctor Charles C. Ross, and an equally beautiful silk Church Flag was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jenkins in memory of their mothers. These flags stand at each side of the pulpit platform.

Miss Edna Neal of Bradford, Pennsylvania, who sang Stephen Adams' "Holy City" at the dedication services of the present Church, was present for the Seventy-fifth Anniversary and assisted with the Anniversary Services music, and also is present for the One Hundredth Anniversary, on Sunday night, June 22, sang "How Lovely Is the Hand of God" by Loughborough.

Down through the years so many persons kindly and competently assisted with the Church music that it is difficult to make special mention of the different ones helping with the Church services. However, the following organists served in a highly competent manner for many years: Emma Corbett Culbertson, Orpha Capron and Mrs. Ethel Allen Curril, and as soloist and choir director Mrs. W. J. Davies deserves special mention.

One of the most pleasant features of the celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary was the attendance of the two daughters of our first minister, James Montgomery,—Mrs. Kate Montgomery Raine (Mrs. T. W. Raine) of Fairview, Erie County, Pennsylvania, who has arrived at the age of eighty-six years, and Mary Montgomery Wilson (Mrs. Banks Wilson) of Creston, Iowa, who has arrived at the age of eighty-two years. Mrs. Mary Montgomery Wilson

brought with her the First Church Call issued to her father one hundred years ago, and which is as follows:

"The Congregation of Clarion being, on sufficient grounds, well satisfied of the Ministerial qualifications of you, Mr. James Montgomery and having good hopes, from our past experience of your labors, that your ministrations in the Gospel will be profitable to our spiritual interests, do earnestly call and desire you to undertake the Pastoral Office in said Congregation; promising you in the discharge of

your duty, all proper support, encouragement and obedience in the Lord. And that you may be free from worldly cares and avocations we hereby promise and oblige ourselves to pay you the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars for one-half of your Ministerial labors in regular half yearly payments, during the time of your being and continuing the regular Pastor of this Church.

In Testimony Whereof we have respectively subscribed our names this 27th day of September, A. D. 1841.

Attest:

John Core

H. A. Thompson

John Clark

George B. Hamilton

Abraham Richards

John Potter

James Campbell

D. W. Foster

J. K. Boyd

John Templeton

James McCreedy

John L. Thompson

Isaiah Guthrie

James A. Kerr

Robert Ford

D. B. Hays

Edward Derby

J. H. Shisters

James M. Craig

Joseph Shoemaker

Robert Barber

Adam Mooney

Milton Smith

Seth Clover

David Wilson

Jesse Teats

Richard Wilson

(Endorsed on Back)

First Call of Congregation

For

Rev. James Montgomery

Allegheny Presbytery.

(Second Endorsement)

I do hereby certify that the within call was moderated on the 27th day of September, A. D. 1841, in all respects agreeably to the Directory, and that (as far as I could ascertain) there was not a dissenting vote.

(Signed) John Core."

For the past eleven to twelve years Mr. Benjamin Stahlman has been the obliging and efficient Church Sexton.

At the present time the Church is assisting in the maintenance of a Missionary in India, who is Miss Edith Imhoff, daughter of Mr. and

Mrs. Isaac Imhoff, and was born at Miola, Clarion County, Pennsylvania, on June 12, 1895, where she received her early education in the Public Schools. Later she attended Clarion State Normal School, from which she graduated in 1915. She then attended Kings School of Oratory in Pittsburgh for two years and graduated there in 1917. She then taught two terms of school in Allegheny and Mercer Counties, and then attended Moody's Bible Institute two years, graduating in 1921, and in February, 1922, went to India as a Missionary under the Presbyterian Board from the Clarion Church. In six and one-half years she returned on furlough in July, 1929. She attended the Westminster University at New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, during the term of 1929-1930, and returned to India in November, 1930, came home again on furlough in June, 1937, and returned to India in September, 1938, where she is working at this time as a District Evangelist, going from village to village throughout the Kaimganj District. She reports a great revival and many souls have seen the Light and accepted Jesus as their Saviour during the past three years.

Miss Margaret Cull, a member of the Historical Committee for the Centennial Anniversary, gathered together and exhibited in one of the Sunday School rooms a very interesting collection of old photographs, church records, books, and other items of great interest to the members of the Congregation.

The Honorable Harry M. Rimer at the time of the observance of the One Hundredth Anniversary was the only member of the Board of Trustees who was also a Trustee at the time of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary, he having served continuously as Trustee during that twenty-five year period, and for some years previously thereto.

Mrs. Clara Rhea Simmons, in memory of her husband, Lucien M. Simmons, who was very active in the work of the Sunday School and Church, gave the Church One Thousand (\$1,000.00) Dollars to pay for the installation of the organ chimes and they were installed October, 1930. From this memorial fund, after the cost of the organ chimes, there remained approximately One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars, which is to be used for the purpose of installing a Baptismal Font.

#### OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

SESSION 1940-1941

Claire M. Stewart, D.D., Moderator

D. D. Peirce, Ph.D., Clerk

E. E. Brisbin, Honorary Elder

H. M. Johnston

D. C. McMaster

C. A. Kuhner

G. A. Moore

A. R. Lobaugh

W. B. Rankin

G. A. Laughlin

S. J. Sloan

H. S. Manson

W. S. Tippin

R. R. Whitmer

(Meeting second Wednesday of month at 8:30 P. M.)

### FINANCIAL OFFICERS

Miss Margaret Curril .....	Financial Secretary
Honorable H. M. Rimer .....	Congregational Treasurer
L. M. Clark .....	Benevolences Treasurer

### TRUSTEES

A. R. Newell, President

H. M. Amsler

H. M. Rimer

J. M. Myers

H. W. Spindler

G. W. Wolf

(Meeting first Thursday of month at 5:00 P. M.)

### DEACONESES AND DEACONS

Miss Margaret Curril	Floyd Black
Mrs. G. M. Harriger	R. B. Carson
Mrs. Gertrude Hasselback	F. S. Port
Mrs. Blanche Snyder	N. A. Rea
Mrs. Anna Thompson	C. C. Survey

E. H. Gorsuch

### CHURCH SCHOOL

A. A. Murphy .....	General Superintendent
E. E. Brisbin .....	Honorary Superintendent
W. S. Tippin .....	Assistant Superintendent
Floyd Black .....	Assistant Superintendent
Miss Thelma McMaster .....	Secretary
Mr. Roscoe Thorne .....	Treasurer
Mr. D. C. McMaster .....	Assistant Treasurer
(Meeting Teachers and Officers second Wednesday of month, 6 P. M.)	

### CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETY

Miss Helen Mase .....	President
Miss Barbara Paddock .....	Vice President
Miss Nancy Smathers .....	Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. G. A. Moore .....	Sponsor

### THE KATE MONTGOMERY MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Mrs. S. J. Lackey .....	President
Mrs. L. W. Greenlee .....	Vice President
Mrs. K. L. Smith .....	Secretary
Mrs. John Myers .....	Treasurer

(Meeting first Tuesday of month at 7:45 P. M.)

THE HELEN SHAFER MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Mrs. A. A. Murphy .....	President
Mrs. C. V. Starr .....	Vice President
Mrs. D. D. Peirce .....	Secretary
Miss Muza Anchors .....	Treasurer

LADIES CHURCH ASSOCIATION

Mrs. C. S. Budd .....	President
Mrs. H. W. Spindler .....	Vice President
Mrs. C. A. Conley .....	Secretary
Miss Margaret Curl .....	Treasurer

(Meeting first Wednesday of month at 1:00 P. M.)

SEXTON

Mr. Benjamin Stahlman

---

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Clarion, Pennsylvania

LIST OF CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE PERSONNEL

GENERAL COMMITTEE: S. J. Sloan, Chairman, Dr. D. D. Peirce,  
Vice Chairman, Mrs. C. V. Starr, Secretary, Mrs. C. A. Conley,  
Judge H. M. Rimer, John M. Myers, H. W. Spindler, H. S. Manson,  
W. B. Rankin, Fred Port and Robert Carson.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: H. M. Amsler, Chairman, A. R. Newell,  
Vice Chairman, N. A. Rea, Treasurer.

FINANCIAL CONTROL COMMITTEE: H. M. Amsler, Chairman, A.  
R. Newell, Vice Chairman, Howard M. Johnston, Secretary.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: H. W. Spindler, Chairman, Mrs. S. J.  
Lackey, W. B. Rankin, John M. Myers, Fred Port and H. S.  
Manson.

WIRING AND FIXTURE COMMITTEE: H. M. Manson, Chairman,  
A. L. Whisner, Dr. E. A. Wilhelm, C. V. Starr and L. L. Marshall,  
Sr.

DECORATIONS: John M. Myers, Chairman, Mrs. W. B. Rankin, Mrs.  
C. S. Budd, Mrs. William Beatty, R. L. R. Snyder.

BASEMENT AND MANSE: W. B. Rankin, Chairman, C. A. Conley,  
Ralph L. Cresswell, Charles Amsler and Benjamin Stahlman.

**LAWN AND TREES:** Fred Port, Chairman, Frank Miller, Frank Shreffler, Mrs. Anna K. Wilson and Mrs. C. W. Wilhelm.

**CARPET:** Mrs. S. J. Lackey, Chairman, Mrs. O. H. Culbertson, Mrs. R. L. R. Snyder, Mrs. J. M. Smathers, Mrs. R. D. Campbell—Mrs. John Myers took Mrs. Campbell's place when she went south.

**HOSPITALITY:** Mrs. H. W. Spindler, Chairman, Mrs. Edward Bell, Mrs. Benjamin Mooney, Chester McMaster and Waldo Tippin.

**PROGRAM:** Rudolph Whitmer, Chairman, Miss Miriam Greenlee, Mrs. W. J. Davies, L. M. Clark and George Laughlin.

**PRESS AND PUBLICITY:** Miss Bertha Nair, Chairman, Mrs. Margaret Beck, Mrs. Floyd Black, Mrs. Gerald Moore and H. S. Keck.

**PRESBYTERIAL:** Dr. Claire M. Stewart, Chairman, C. A. Kuhner, Glade Stroupe, Elmer Brisbin and A. R. Lobaugh.

**HISTORICAL:** Theo. L. Wilson, Chairman, Miss Margaret Curl, Mrs. Ella Pickens, Mrs. A. W. Corbett and Mrs. George Alexander.

**TYPISTS:** Mary Lidstone, Jean Mase, Ruth Fowkes, Vesta Brinker, Laura Byers, Betty Paddock, Helen Corbett and Marque Ecker.

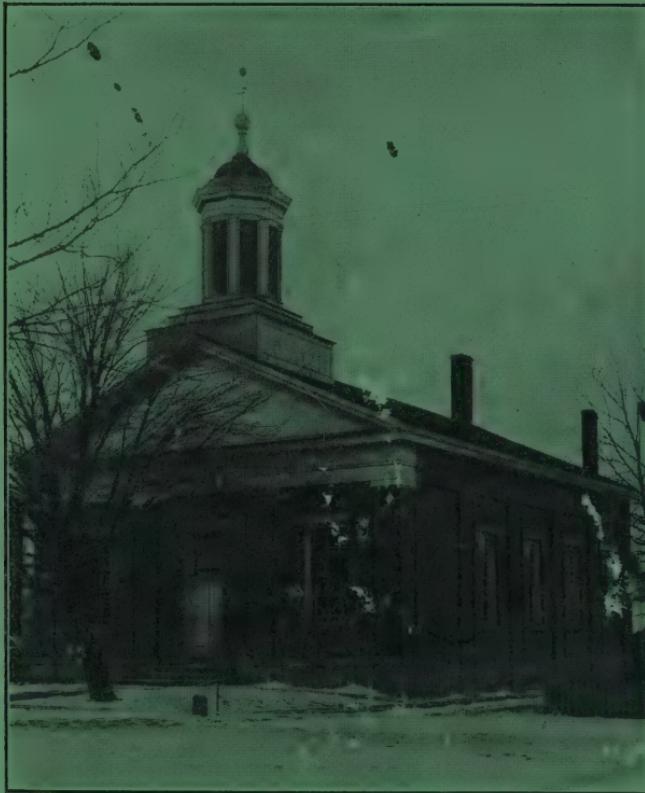
**COMMITTEE COORDINATOR:** Dr. Claire M. Stewart, Pastor.

The General Chairman and the Committee Coordinator were elected by the congregation at a special meeting. The other committee chairmen and members were nominated by authorized groups in the church and appointed by the General Chairman according to the plan which the congregation approved.









*The old Presbyterian Church  
Located on Grant Street, South of Park*





6/16/2017

403166 5 17

00

HF GROUP-IN



